

# OVER LOKI'S LAUGHTER

A Play in One Act  
for Young People

by

Barry Stewart Mann  
barrystewartmann@hotmail.com

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## SYNOPSIS

*OVER LOKI'S LAUGHTER* is about two parallel stories. In the immortal world of the Norse gods and goddesses, Odin and Thor have tired of the pranks and trickery of Loki, the god of fire. In the mortal world of contemporary humans, a boy and girl who are enemies back home find themselves serendipitously at the same Norwegian Alpine ski resort, famous for a mysteriously haunted slope called Loki's Laughter. Their stateside rivalry is renewed, and the kids at the resort take sides behind them in a grand skiing challenge. The humans are oblivious to the immortals; the gods and goddesses are aware of, but fairly indifferent to the mortals. In alternating scenes that span a single day, the two stories build to their intersecting and simultaneous conclusions on treacherous mountainside, and peace again reigns in both the mortal and immortal worlds.

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

*Over Loki's Laughter* was produced for two studio performances by the Junior Players of the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, GA, in 2009. The performances took place on the Hertz Stage of the Woodruff Arts Center. The show was presented free of charge, and it was not reviewed.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*Over Loki's Laughter* has 33 roles, which can (and were written to be) played by sixteen actors, nine girls and seven boys. With a cast of sixteen, each actor plays both a god and a mortal, with one character playing two immortal roles. Conversely, the roles could be distributed with one each to a cast of 33 actors, with no doubling. In this case, there would be 18 girls and 15 boys.

### Immortals:

Thor	Idunn
Odin	Sif
Balder	Hel
Hoder	Skadi
Freyr	3 Norns
Loki	
Bragi	
Tyr	
Frigg	
Freya	

### Mortals:

Monique	Corey
Smith	Nathaniel
Rich Smith	Trey
Angelina	Ramona
Martinez	Gina (Italian)
Jane Sparks	Shasa
Ian Sparks	(Nigerian)
Jack Sparks	Claudette
Astrid, ski	(French)
teacher	Birgit
Nils, concierge	(Norwegian)

Possible Character Doubling:

Thor / Rich; Odin / Ian; Balder / Nathaniel; Hoder / Jack; Freyr / Trey; Loki / Nils;  
Bragi / Astrid; Tyr / Corey; Frigg / Jane; Freya / Angelina; Idunn / Claudette;  
Sif / Norn / Shasa; Hel / Birgit; Skadi / Gina; Norn / Monique; and Norn / Ramona.

#### SET AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

*Over Loki's Laughter* can, as it was in its original incarnation, be produced with a minimum of set or technical needs, using simple props, neutral stage pieces, and ordinary sound effects to establish the various settings. Conversely, the play could also be presented with more elaborate sets, costumes, lights and sound to evoke the two contracting worlds of Asgard and the Norwegian Alps, and the various locales within these worlds. Also, the director and actors must creatively tackle the challenges of conveying the act of skiing onstage, as well as the staging of a crevasse into which the characters fall.

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## PROLOGUE: LOKI LAUGHS

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*(A mountainside in Norway. Sound of haunting music. Slow crossfade into sound of wind and skiing - whooshes. Then, the sounds of multiple laughter. One laugh rises above the others and remains. Lights come up on LOKI, laughing, while running and hopping around. SKADI observes from the distance.)*

LOKI: Have they no sense of humor? Play, play, it's all in a day's work. Tricks are just turns of the mind. If they cared so much about that beautiful fellow, they should not have used him for target practice. Ah, but it was funny! *(He laughs.)* And now, I'm sure they are plotting their revenge. Ever since I became blood-brothers with the great Odin, the rest of the Aesir, the illustrious gods of Asgard, have been jealous of me. But I will have the last laugh. I always do. *(He laughs.)*

SKADI: Loki!

LOKI: Skadi, beautiful frost-giantess!

SKADI: Enough is enough. Let it be.

LOKI: I will. I will let it be . . . endlessly, delightfully clever. *(Laughs and leaves.)*

## SCENE 1: ARRIVALS

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*(The Main Lobby of the Skisenter Jarlsheim. NILS, the concierge, stands behind a desk or podium. BIRGIT, SHASA, CLAUDETTE and GINA enter)*

BIRGIT: It should be another wonderful day for skiing.

CLAUDETTE: Today is our group class, no?

GINA: I hope so! I don't want to fall down so much as yesterday.

SHASA: I just hope that it gets a little warmer. It is never this cold in Nigeria.

CLAUDETTE: Of course not. In France, we have cold weather all the time.

GINA: Yes, even in Italy we have cold in the mountains.

NILS: Good morning, ladies.

GIRLS: Hi, Nils!

NILS: Is everything good? Can I get you anything?

SHASA, CLAUDETTE & GINA: No / It is fine / Thank you.

BIRGIT: I told them the Jarlsheim Skisenter Ski Resort is the best in all of Norway.

*(MONIQUE and RAMONA enter.)*

RAMONA: Hi!

GIRLS: Hi!

RAMONA: We saw you yesterday. My name is Ramona, and this is Monique.

BIRGIT: Hi! I am Birgit. I live here in Norway. We are part of an international Youth for Peace group. We had meetings in Oslo, and now we have a ski vacation.

MONIQUE: We're from the U.S. We're on vacation with my Dad and Step-Mom.

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[From Scene 2, The Aesir Council:]

FREYA: Tyr, you are the God of Justice. What do you think we should do?

TYR: Is he at all repentant? Does he know how much he has offended us?

HODER: I think I hear him, in the distance. He is at the base of Yggdrasil, the World Tree, talking with two others.

THOR: I will change into a falcon, and go to hear if he expresses any regret.

ODIN: Good idea, my son.

*(The gods all leave; THOR changes shape into a falcon and flies around the stage. LOKI, SKADI and HEL appear.)*

SKADI: Loki, be warned. The Aesir have called a council to discuss you.

LOKI: Don't be silly. Since I swore an oath and Odin made me his blood-brother, he has protected me. The Aesir gods wouldn't dare to take vengeance on me.

SKADI: I wouldn't be so sure of that.

LOKI: And Hel, why did you let Balder return to life?

HEL: Father, everyone in the world was weeping. Even I have pity sometimes.

LOKI: Enough. There is still plenty of time for fun and games. But first . . .

*(They leave. THOR shakes his head, then brandishes his hammer.)*

### SCENE 3: AT THE ARCADE

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*(The video arcade. COREY, NATHANIEL, TREY, IAN and JACK enter.)*

TREY: Isn't this cool! There are like a zillion games here.

IAN: Awesome. My favorite is Desert Invasion.

COREY: No, they don't have that kind. These are all extreme winter adventures. Wanna do a snowmobile race?

IAN: Yeah!

NATHANIEL: Let's try this Extreme Ski Masters. It's got ramps and flips and tunnels and stuff. Come on, Trey.

TREY: Man, it's like skateboarding on skis in a humongous skate park full of snow!

JACK: Luge! I'm going to ride the Super-Mega-Luge!

*(They all play their games, with expressions and improvised exclamations. BIRGIT, GINA, SHASA, CLAUDETTE, RAMONA and MONIQUE enter.)*

BIRGIT: And this is the game room. Kind of boring if you ask me. But all the American boy tourists like it.

GINA: Look, there are some now.

*(MONIQUE shrieks. The BOYS look up.)*

SHASA: What is it?

MONIQUE *(speechless, pointing at IAN)*: Eh, eh, eh, eh --

IAN *(seeing MONIQUE)*: Oh noooooo!!!!

NATHANIEL: What is it, Ian?

IAN: Dog-face!

MONIQUE: Possum-breath!

IAN: What is she doing here!?!?

MONIQUE: What is he doing here!?!

SHASA: What is going on?

IAN: She's the girl who made my life miserable in summer camp!!!!

JACK: Oh, brother!

RAMONA: Is that the boy you told me about, who you hated so much?

MONIQUE: Yes! Gross! Now my vacation is ruined!

IAN: Good, it will match your face and personality! *(The BOYS laugh hysterically.)*

MONIQUE: At least I have one! You left yours in the pond-scum you crawled out of back at Camp Wagamacheechee. *(The GIRLS laugh hysterically.)*

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## SCENE 8: STEALING THE HAMMER

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*(At the base of the World-Tree Yggdrasil. LOKI alone.)*

LOKI: Thunder-god, I know you will be here soon. But little do you know there are stinging centipedes in the snow! *(Covers himself, and produces centipedes.)*

*(THOR enters.)*

THOR: Mischief-Maker, I know you are here somewhere, lurking in the shadows at the base of the World-Tree. Prepare to feel the wrath of my mighty weapon.

LOKI: Prepare to feel the wrath of my million tiny bites.  
*(He foists his centipedes on THOR, who itches, dropping Mjollnir.)*

THOR: Ah, something is crawling under my impenetrable armor. It stings, it stings.

*(LOKI grabs Mjollnir. THOR writhes on the ground. LOKI unveils himself.)*

LOKI: You may be the god of Thunder, but I am the god of Fire. I have an idea. What if I shook these mountains, and warmed them with my fire, and let the snow tumble and run down the mountainsides? That could be fun! *(He runs off.)*

THOR *(getting up)*: Loki!!!! Mjollnir!!!! Frigg!!!! Help!!!  
*(He runs off.)*

## SCENE 9: AVALANCHE

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*(Loki's Laughter. TREY, COREY, and NATHANIEL ski on to a stop.)*

NATHANIEL: Where's Ian?

TREY: He's way ahead. He'll win the race hands down!

COREY: I hope he's okay. The snow is starting to feel slushy. It's kind of strange.

NATHANIEL: Let's go!

*(They ski off. GINA, CLAUDETTE, and SHASA ski on.)*

GINA: It's a bit warm. But the sun has gone behind the clouds.

CLAUDETTE: Did you feel something? I thought the snow over there was moving.

SHASA: I'm scared! I'm not used to this!

*(BIRGIT and RAMONA come on.)*

BIRGIT: What is wrong?

SHASA: The snow is moving! Something is happening!

RAMONA: Where's Monique?

BIRGIT: Wasn't she with you?

SHASA: Oh no!

BIRGIT: Calm down. Don't start going berserkers!

SHASA: Let's get back to the resort!

*(They go off. ASTRID skis on.)*

ASTRID: This is horrible! It's like the mountain is shaking! It could be a sign that there will be an avalanche. I hope the kids are further down. I've got to find them.

*(She leaves. MONIQUE skis on.)*

MONIQUE: Why do I keep losing my balance? Ahhh! The snow is opening up!  
*(She falls, tumbling into a crevasse.)* Owwww! My ankle. Ramona?!?!? Daddy?!?!?  
Anyone?!?!?!? I'm in this hole!!!! Help!!!!!!!!

*(FRIGG and BALDER enter. MONIQUE does not see them.)*

FRIGG: Is this who you saw?

BALDER: Yes, mother. Poor mortal girl. This is not right!

*(THOR enters.)*

THOR: Frigg! Loki has stolen Mjollnir!

BALDER: Brother, calm yourself.

FRIGG: Your hammer!

BALDER: Do you see this poor girl?

THOR: I can't worry about her! The God of Fire is shaking the earth and melting the snows! He may start Ragnarokk, the Twilight of the Universe!

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